

Maryland 2020 Presidential Primary Election FAQs

Q: What is the date for the Presidential Primary Election?

A: June 2, 2020.

Q: Will there be early voting for the 2020 Presidential Primary Election?

A: No. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, early voting has been canceled for the 2020 Presidential Primary Election. At this time, it is expected that there will be early voting for the 2020 Presidential General Election.

Q: Will voters get a sample ballot in the mail before getting their ballot that needs to be voted?

A: No. A sample of the ballots can be found on our website at [FrederickCountyMD.gov/elections](https://frederickcountymd.gov/elections).

Q: Can a voter go to their usual polling place on Election Day?

A: No. Neighborhood polling places have been closed by Proclamation of the Governor for the 2020 Presidential Primary Election because it was determined that voting in the traditional manner would “enable the transmission of the novel coronavirus, and pose risks to public health, welfare and safety.”

Q: What is the safest way to vote?

A: To reduce the risk of spreading the novel coronavirus, voters are strongly encouraged to vote by mail. The State Board of Elections will mail all eligible voters a ballot. No postage is needed to return your ballot – you will get a postage paid envelope with your ballot.

Q: Do voters need to request an absentee ballot?

A: No. The State Board of Elections will mail all voters a ballot to the address listed in the voter registration record.

Q: A voter already requested an absentee ballot by completing an absentee ballot application. Will the voter get two ballots?

A: No. You will receive one ballot.

Q: How do voters know if they are registered to vote?

A: You can check to see if you are registered or how you might be registered at:

<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>. If you do not have internet access, call 1-800-222-8683 and ask a State Board of Elections representative to check your registration.

Q: Can a voter request that a ballot be delivered to them online?

A: If you would prefer to get a ballot to print offline or a ballot mailed to a different address than where you are registered to vote, you can complete an absentee ballot application at: <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>. Voters will be required to print a ballot and mail it back to the Board of Elections Office.

Q: What kind of identification is required to cast a ballot by mail?

A: If you are a registered voter and voted before, no identification is required to receive or submit a ballot by mail. A very small number of newly registered voters may need to provide ID with their voted ballots. If you have to provide ID, there will be instructions with your ballot.

Q: When will the ballots be mailed to all active, registered voters?

A: The vendor will be sending the ballots in early May.

Q: What if a voter doesn't get their ballot in the mail?

A: You should contact the Board of Elections office by phone or email if you do not get a ballot by Friday, May 15, 2020.

Q: What should a voter use to fill out the ballot?

A: It is recommended that a black ballpoint pen be used.

Q: How will a voter return their voted ballot?

A: All ballots will have instructions for how to make sure your voted ballot is returned to the Frederick County Board of Elections office at 340A Montevue Lane, Frederick, Maryland 21702. A postage paid return envelope will be enclosed. The sealed envelope can be put in the mail OR it can be dropped off in one of our drop boxes beginning May 21. More details are to come regarding hours and days that drop boxes will be available. All returned ballots must have a post mark of June 2 or earlier.

Voters are urged to return the ballot as soon as possible. Those who wait until the deadline to return their ballot are encouraged to use a Board of Elections drop box. Ballots in the drop box will not require a postmark.

Q: Where will the ballot drop boxes be located?

A: Ballot drop boxes will be located at:

Frederick County Board of Elections
340A Montevue Lane, Frederick, Maryland 21702

William R. Talley Recreation Center
121 N Bentz St, Frederick, Maryland 21701

Urbana Regional Library
9020 Amelung Street, Frederick, Maryland 21704

Q: What is the deadline to return my ballot?

A: Voters are encouraged to mail their ballot as soon as possible and not to wait until the deadline. To ensure timely delivery, you should consider returning your ballot by Monday, May 25.

If you return your ballot by U.S. Postal Service, it must be postmarked by June 2, 2020.

If you return your ballot to one of the drop boxes listed, it must be deposited before the polls close at 8:00 p.m. on June 2, 2020.

Q: How can a voter find out whether the Board of Elections received my ballots?

A: Information on the status of your ballot is available by using the voter lookup tool found at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>. If you do not have internet access, call 1-800-222-8683 and ask a State Board of Elections representative to check the status of your ballot. Voters can also call or email the Board of Election Office.

Q: What does limited in-person voting mean?

A: If a voter is unable to vote by mail, on June 2, the William R. Talley Recreation Center and the Urbana Regional Library will be open for in-person voting from 7am-8pm. All CDC guidelines regarding social distancing will be followed and there will be line management. Same Day Registration will also be available. It is important to follow the Governor's advice to vote your ballot in the mail if at all possible.

Q: What is the difference between an absentee ballot and a mail-in ballot?

A: There is no difference. For the June 2, 2020 election, the State Board of Elections is sending a ballot to all voters, whether it was requested or not.

Q: Is same day registration available on Election Day, June 2, 2020?

A: Yes. However, the voter registration deadline has been postponed to Wednesday, May 27, so people who aren't already registered should get registered to avoid lines and wait times on Election Day.

Q: Will electioneers be able to campaign at the ballot drop off sites and vote centers?

A: Yes, they must follow the 100' guideline.

Q: Will Challengers and Watchers be allowed in the vote centers?

A: Yes, challengers and watchers will be permitted to observe the check-in stations of each vote center, but due to social distancing guidelines, the number permitted at any one time will be strictly limited.

Q: When will ballots be unsealed from their envelopes and tabulated?

A: The process will begin on or after May 21. It will be live streamed. By 5pm each day, we will post through social media and on our website if ballot tabulation will occur the next day. We will not be providing results until June 2 at 8pm after the in person voting locations have closed. The tabulation process could continue through at least June 12.

Q: How will the Board of Elections make sure that a voter who has already returned a ballot won't also vote in person?

A: The electronic pollbooks will have recorded who has returned their ballot up to that day. If a voter's ballot is received on June 2 or after June 2, the by mail ballot will not be counted if the voter cast a ballot on Election Day.

Q: What is the Board of Elections doing to protect against fraud?

A: The Board of Elections is taking all of the same safeguards to protect against fraud that we do for every election. All systems are designed to make sure that each voter has the opportunity to vote one, and only one, ballot. Any allegation or evidence of fraud will be investigated and referred for prosecutions. If you see or hear of any attempted vote fraud, contact the Attorney General's Office at 410-576-6300 or 1-888-743-0023 toll free in Maryland or via TDD at 410-576-6372.

Q: What is the Board of Elections doing to protect against hacking?

A: The Board of Elections is taking all of the same cybersecurity safeguards that we do for every election. The State Board of Elections has invested significant funding in securing the statewide voter registration system, including features for ballot request and delivery. The election will not be certified for several weeks after Election Day to allow time to conduct audits, investigate complaints, and make sure every eligible vote is counted.

Q: How will voters know that their ballots will be counted?

A: You can check that your ballot was counted by visiting www.elections.maryland.gov and clicking "Look up your Voter Info." If you do not have internet access, call 1-800-222-8683 and ask a State Board of Elections representative to check the status of your voted ballot. The information will be posted about 10 days after the election.